GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:221
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
IODINE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people in the country suffer from iodine deficiency syndrome;

(b) if so, the symptoms of such disorder in the human body;

(c) the rationale behind the insistence of manufacturing only iodised salt;

(d) whether slight increase of iodine in the human body more than the normal level is likely to lead to health complications; and

(e) if so, whether strict adherence to the mixing of right quantity of iodine in the manufacture and sale of common salt would be followed; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a): As per Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutions of all the States/UTs, in the country are endemic for Iodine Deficiency disorders.

(b): The symptoms of Iodine Deficiency Disorders include Goitre, Hypothyroidism, Impaired mental function, retarded Physical development, Abortions, still birth, neurological disorders, cretinism etc.

(c): Under the Rules notified under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Common salt may continue to be manufactured and sold for iodisation, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, industrial and animal use under proper label declaration. Iodisation of salt has been made mandatory only for human consumption.

(d): No, Sir.

(e) & (f): The standards of Iodated salt have been laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 with Iodine level of 30 parts per million at the production level and 15 Parts per Million at the consumer level . All the States and Union Territories have been advised to ensure that the entire population consumes only Iodated salt daily as per the above specification.